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ISTS Workshops and Projected Programs

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I said to my wife, and I say to you now, "How many people do you know, or how many have you ever known, that are truly better than you are?" I don't mean smarter or richer or healthier or more popular. Count them if you will; ten fingers will do, maybe five, I don't mean people that make you feel better because you've been with them. A comedian or dunce or anyone with lesser status can do that for you. I mean, who can you name that because of being with them, whether casually or deliberately, formally or informally, for however briefly, for a genuinely human transaction--who is it amongst all the thousands you have encountered in your nearly half century who can you truly say left you a better person because of that human encounter? I know your list will be short. Mine is. I count nine and Mil Krohn is there. You, my wife, my mom and dad, and the others I need not name here."

And I only knew him ever so briefly, professionally, it is true, but seemingly so casually. But our encounters were in depth. And in those he drew from me only the best.

I have counted the times we were together. It was exactly eight. And I could recall for you an instructive story with a moral from each one. But one vignette will suffice.

It was Saturday afternoon October 2, 1971 and we were alone on the east porch of the assembly hall at the Lakeside Laboratory. We had just finished the three day workshop and the teachers had left for home. It was a perfect October day still and clear--the leaves had changed and the lake was that stunning blue color you have to see to know.

We had loaded the pickup and had swept the floor and just sat there on the rail, exhausted, not knowing quite what to say before we parted.

After what seemed like an age and to break the silence I said, "Well we got through it? How do you feel about it?"

For what seemed like another age he didn't answer but stared out towards Miller's Bay and on across the lake. Finally he turned to me. His impish eyes were filled with tears. The utter exhaustion showed all over his face. And you could read it in hunched shoulders as he pulled up straighter.

"I'm tired Paul. I have been driven from within. And I don't know from where, or how, I'll get the strength to go on. I need your help. And the help of the other guys.

Somebody has to save us from ourselves.

We have inherited a beautiful world. How can we pass on to our kids (he meant all kids) a world of justice and of kindness and beauty?"

Of course there was no reply, only the answer that would be demonstrated by countless unrecorded acts of beauty and kindness and justice. By you and me, and teachers everywhere.

We parted without another word. And I knew that I had communed with a representative of God.

Paul Joslin
Drake University
Des Moines, Iowa
September 4, 1973

ISTS WORKSHOPS AND PROJECTED PROGRAMS

Don Murphy
President, ISTS
Hoover School
West Des Moines, Iowa

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the workshops conducted by I.S.T.S. as well as projected programs for this year.

There has been a concerted effort on the part of the executive committee of ISTS to re-establish regional workshops for science teachers. Last year we were able to sponsor or share the sponsorship of five workshops covering the areas of Earth Science, Environmental Science-Student Evaluation, Little Sioux River Project and Organization of Field Trips (2). This year we again hope to carry out additional workshops in regions we missed last year. To do this we need your help in identifying areas of concern to you as science teachers. We encourage you to get together with your fellow science teachers, discuss some possibilities for a workshop, then contact your ISTS Regional Director or the Project ASSIST Director in your region. Project ASSIST is working on a talent bank of Science Educators and is willing to help with whatever workshops you may request. For a successful workshop the effort needs to come from YOU, the science teacher.

Two dates to mark on your calendar are October 19-20, ISEA convention and November 8-10, National Convention of School Science and Mathematics Association both in Des Moines.

For dates on additional science meetings and workshops, consult your ISTS Journal and/or your IAS Newsletter.

See you at the Convention!!!

SSTP FLORIDA ECOLOGY PROGRAM

The Florida Ecology Program is a two-week outdoor program concerned with utilizing the unique environmental setting of Florida as a "living laboratory" for field studies in ecology, marine geology and biology, ornithology, and various environmental problems. The field excursion commencing at Daytona Beach on December 26 is available to sophomore, junior and senior high school students. Two hours of university credit can be attained for participating.

A tour of the John F. Kennedy Space Center will emphasize the industrial complex and the effects of such facilities on the immediate area. Investigations in marine, brackish, and freshwater communities will be conducted at Sebastian Inlet (Indian River). Studies including topographic and geomorphic features and processes associated with the Florida coast will be carried out from Daytona Beach to Key West. Importance will then center upon the ecological relationships of marine biota within an active reef complex. This will provide not only direct observation of the vast variety of natural flora and fauna present, but will also allow the opportunity to relate carbonate accumulations found in the reefs to those of the geologic record. Snorkeling and diving will be utilized to enhance the study of coral reefs. During the next few days, ornithological studies, swamp habitats, and the effect of man upon the quality and change in the natural environment will be studied in the Everglades National Park. A boat trip is planned for more extensive observation in this area. Near Lake Okeechobee studies will concentrate on environmental problems affiliated with man's encroachment upon the natural, delicate ecosystems evidenced throughout the area. During the return trip to Daytona Beach, a day's visit to Disney World will be made. The program will terminate on January 5. Participants will be able to depart from Daytona Beach on January 6.

In addition, the spectacular scenic areas offer splendid opportunity for photography and recreation. Free time will permit swimming, snorkeling, and diving. A certified diving instructor will be a part of the instructional team. For more information write: SSTP, 459 Physics Building, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242.

THE IOWA SCIENCE TEACHERS' JOURNAL

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